Prof. Enoch L. Mitchell Dies After Heart Attack At Home

Enoch L. Mitchell, former chairman of the history department at Memphis State University and one of the South's best known historians, died about midnight Saturday at his home, 3560 Watauga.

Prof. Mitchell, who had been a member of the Memphis State faculty since 1939, died after an apparent heart attack. He was 62.

Until two years ago, Mr. Mitchell served as chairman of the university history department and since that time had held the Chapman Chemical Co. distinguished professor chair in history.

Enoch L. Mitchell

Dr. C. C. Humphreys, president of Memphis State, said: "Memphis State University and the academic community of this area have lost a fine teacher and scholar. Mr. Mitchell's contributions to Memphis State over the years have been great and he will be missed by all with whom he has been associated. The South has lost one of its best known historians."

Mr. Mitchell, who was born at Guntown, Miss., had been active in many activities at Memphis State.

He attended the old West Tennessee State Teachers College, which is now Memphis State, and received his bachelor's degree in 1929. After receiving his master of arts degree in 1938 from George Peabody College, Mr. Mitchell returned to Memphis State as a teacher.

At Memphis State, Mr. Mitchell was a member of the athletic committee for many years and was past secretary of the university's alumni association. He helped found and direct the J. P. Young Lecture Series in American History for the past 11 years and he directed operations of the Memphis State University Press, in addition to teaching.

Widely known for his activities in local, state and Southern historical organizations, Mr. Mitchell was arrangements chairman for the Southern Historical Association meeting scheduled for Memphis next fall.

Members of the association were planning a special dinner and award honoring his work with the association.

Mr. Mitchell had also been active in committee work for the Tennessee Historical Society and the Mississippi Valley Historical Association and was a member of the American Historical Association.

He was a member of the board of directors for the Memphis Public Affairs Forum and had served as president of that group for two years.

Mr. Mitchell was co-author of a three-volume history of Tennessee. He was completing work on a new history of Tennessee, scheduled for publication next fall.

Mr. Mitchell moved to Somerville, Tenn., as a youth and later, from 1932-1938, served as Fayette County superintendent of education.

He was a communicant of St. John's Episcopal Church.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Ara Reed Mitchell; a daughter, Miss Mary Katherine Mitchell of Atlanta; and a son, Lt. Comdr. Allan R. Mitchell, with the Navy at Da Nang, Vietnam.

Memphis Funeral Home has charge.

The family requests that any memorials be sent to the Memphis State University Scholarship Fund.